

Construction to start on first stretch of Loop 303 outside Phoenix

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Phoenix Business Journal - by Jan Buchholz

Construction will begin the week of Jan. 26 on the first 5-mile stretch of Loop 303, between Happy Valley Parkway and Lake Pleasant Parkway northwest of Phoenix.

The \$101 million project is the first new segment of freeway to be built since voters approved Proposition 400 in 2004. That measure reauthorized a Maricopa County sales tax to pay for transportation projects, and up until now it has been used for improvements on existing highways.

Austin Bridge & Road LP, with headquarters in Irving, Texas, and offices in Phoenix, was awarded the \$101 million construction project.

Loop 303 eventually will extend 36 miles, connecting Interstate 17 north of Phoenix to Interstate 10 to the west.

The first segment is scheduled to be completed by 2012. Interchanges on that segment will be at Happy Valley, Lone Mountain and Lake Pleasant parkways.

The second stretch of Loop 303, scheduled to start construction later this year, will extend from I-17 to Lake Pleasant Parkway. Some elements of that project already are in the works as part of the reconstruction of I-17 between Loop 101 and the Carefree Highway.